

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
November 24, 2003**

PRESENT: THOMAS C. REYNOLDS JR, CHAIRMAN; BRIAN MCDONALD, SELECTMAN; LEON G. METHOT, SELECTMAN.

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR: ROBERT CHRISTENSEN
RECORDING SECRETARY: KELLY BUMPUS

GUEST: Frank Campana, Forrest Esenwine, Ginger Esenwine, Matt Pelletier, Bill Weber, Chuck Metcalf, Gene Bilodeau.

The Selectmen's Meeting was held at the Town Office Building. Chairman Reynolds commenced the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Chairman Reynolds asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Frank Campana – Mr. Campana stated that he had some questions in regard to the General Fund balance. He stated that back on November 3rd, Selectman Cook stated that the balance included money that is not physically in the town's possession. He stated that this year is the first year he is hearing the phrase "anticipated revenues" regarding money that is owed to the Town. Chairman Reynolds stated that the Board intends to have a more in depth discussion next week regarding the auditor's report. Mr. Campana asked the Board what they feel the Town is owed, and if they would give an example of where some of the money is coming from? Chairman Reynolds stated that the Board hopes to review this next week, and get a more clear sense of where the money is coming from. Ms. Elayne Pierson, Finance Administrator, stated that when she previously had provided the numbers, it was on a cash basis. She stated that assets are not always cash. Mr. Campana stated that you do not know that the entire amount will get paid. Ms. Pierson stated that this was correct and any uncollected amount is left for the auditors to write off. Ms. Pierson stated that some examples of the anticipated revenues are bridge reimbursements from the State, FEMA reimbursements, and government reimbursements. Chairman Reynolds stated that he too had never heard the phrase, "anticipated revenues" in the past. Ms. Pierson stated that the Board had never asked questions along these lines before. Selectman Methot stated that things have always been done this way, just never discussed. Mr. Campana

asked the Board if he could get a list of the reserved and unreserved amounts?
Selectman McDonald requested a copy of the information for the Board also be given to Mr. Campana next week.

2. NEW BUSINESS

Washington Fire Department Request -

Chairman Reynolds stated that there has been a request from the Washington Fire Department to use the Center Station. He stated that it will come down to a matter of insurance. Selectman McDonald stated that the Washington Fire Department has an ambulance that they are not using in the winter and are requesting to store it at the Center Station. Selectman McDonald stated that it sounds like the Board of Fire Wards want to cooperate with this request. He stated that it appears that the Washington Fire Department is fine with getting their own insurance.

Manifests -

Chairman Reynolds authorized the Board of Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign checks dated November 24, 2003. Accounts Payable – \$29,643.90, Gross Payrolls - \$28,250.42, for a total of - \$57,894.32, and voids in the amount of \$516.80. Seconded by Selectman Methot. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Collector/Town Clerks Office to Close Early on November 26th -

Chairman Reynolds stated they received a memo from the Tax Collector and Town Clerks office requesting to close early the day before Thanksgiving, November 26th. Selectman Methot stated they are looking to close between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m., rather than 7:00 p.m. Selectman McDonald stated that as long as it is not before 5:30 p.m. he is fine with it. Chairman Reynolds stated that he would notify them that the Board has no problem with the early closing.

3. DISCRETIONARY EASEMENT ON GOLF COURSE – Bill Weber

Mr. Bill Weber met with the Board to discuss the discretionary easement for his golf course. Mr. Weber stated that they previously met with the Board and the Board had granted a discretionary easement allowing them to maintain a current use tax rate. Mr. Weber stated that everyone seemed satisfied, and they did open partially this year and have kept their end of the bargain regarding employees hired and also bought all materials locally. Mr. Weber stated that there is a rumor going around that there may be a \$10,000, and up to \$30,000 tax penalty. Selectman McDonald stated that the Board agreed on \$10,000 current use penalty. Mr. Weber stated that his partner and himself knew nothing about this, never received any kind of notice, never got an

easement or anything in writing. He stated that he has a current tax bill and it is not on the bill. He stated that they did not budget for a \$10,000 tax hit. Mr. Weber stated that this is not to say they will not pay it, he stated that they can pay the \$10,000 if they are allowed to pay it at a \$1,000 per year for the ten years of the easement. Selectman McDonald stated that he was under the impression Mr. Craig Nichols, former Town Assessor was in communication with Mr. Weber. Mr. Weber stated that he and Mr. Nichols had talked, but there was nothing official. He stated that they are not opposed to the \$10,000, but they did not budget for it. Mr. Weber stated that they do not have a written agreement with the Town at this point. Selectman McDonald stated that they will need to have the Town Attorney involved at this point, because unfortunately this came at the end of the Town's current assessor's employment with the Town. Selectman McDonald stated that this was something that was brought up many times, and he thought Mr. Weber was aware of this. Mr. Weber stated that he is not arguing about the amount, but they have not been notified, and is unsure when they will be receiving a bill reflecting this amount. Mr. Weber stated that they were more than happy with the deal they had received. Chairman Reynolds stated that if the Town did not communicate this with them then it falls back on the Board's shoulders. Selectman McDonald stated that the Board obviously needs to research this further. Selectman McDonald told Mr. Weber that the Board has worked with him up to this point, and wants to continue to work with him. Mr. Weber stated that if the Board needs documentation that they have met their end of the bargain, he would be happy to provide them. Chairman Reynolds stated that the entire Board agreed on the \$10,000 current use penalty and the Board will need to discuss if it can be spread out over time. Chairman Reynolds stated that they will put it on a future agenda, and make sure Mr. Weber is notified so he can be present for the discussion. Mr. Weber stated that he feels the biggest issue is that they do not have a written agreement or anything on file with the registry. Chairman Reynolds stated they will need to address this as well.

4. POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET DISCUSSION – Chief Rigney

Chief Rigney met with the Board to discuss the Police Department's budget. The Chief reviewed the information with the Board. Chief Rigney stated that he has cut all programs out of the budget, and they each will be going out on warrant articles. Chief Rigney stated that he does not want to lose any more personnel because they cannot keep what is in place now. Chief Rigney stated that there will be no more special details because the department has not been reimbursed for these amounts in the past. The Board and Chief Rigney discussed health insurance and its effects on individual budgets. Chairman Reynolds stated that they can have future discussions regarding this in the future. Chief Rigney stated that the total increase for the Police Department is 13%. Mr. Chuck Metcalf asked about heat and electric and where these

expenses will be coming from. The Board discussed heat and electric costs coming out of the Police and Fire budgets rather than the Selectmen's budget. Chairman Reynolds stated that the Board will need to discuss this further.

Mr. Gene Bilodeau asked why wage increases have not been entered into the Selectmen's budget? Chairman Reynolds stated they will be having a separate discussion that will address this issue in December.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Milfoil -

Selectman McDonald state that the milfoil committee had met, and the bottom line is that the committee decided the only extension of hours will be from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. He stated the cost will be around \$3,000. He stated that they are still looking into ways to absorb the cost without going to the taxpayers. They are looking into a launch fee.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Growth Management Ordinance -

Selectman McDonald stated that a growth management ordinance will be coming before them and it seems to be supported by the Planning Board.

New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources for Clinton Grove Academy -

Chairman Reynolds stated that they have previously discussed adding Clinton Grove Academy to the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources and just need to make it official with a letter. Selectman McDonald made a motion for the Chairman to sign the letter to the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources for Clinton Grove Academy. Seconded by Selectman Methot. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Complaint Letter from Attorney General's Office -

Selectman McDonald stated that they have received a letter from the Attorney General's office stating they are unhappy with the paperwork trail for a grant for the Police Department. Selectman McDonald stated that he has spoken to Chief Rigney regarding this and the Chief stated that the paperwork has been sent at least two times and there is miscommunication in the Attorney General's office. Selectman McDonald stated that they have been furnished with information they are requesting. Chairman Reynolds stated that the information requested should be sent again along with a copy of the letter.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Reynolds made a motion to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Methot. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A True Record

Kelly Bumpus, Recording Secretary